



Tuesday, January 7, 2003 | Daily Floor News from the Democratic Whip

## HOUSE MEETS AT....

12:00 p.m.

## LAST VOTE PREDICTED...

3-4 p.m.

**Special Orders and "One Minutes" at the conclusion of opening-day business.**

### FLOOR SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE

- ◆ Quorum Call. Today, there will be a recorded Quorum Call vote at 12:00 p.m. following the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ◆ Election of the Speaker of the House. The Chairman of the Republican Conference will nominate J. Dennis Hastert and the Chairman of the Democratic Caucus will nominate Nancy Pelosi to be the Speaker of the House for the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. This election is by manual roll call vote, with **each Member called individually alphabetically by the Clerk**. After the Speaker is elected, the Oath of Office will be administered to Members and Delegates.
- ◆ House rules package for the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress (H. Res. 5). The House will then vote on the adoption of the House rules for the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress as proposed in the Republican Leadership's resolution. This package will be brought up as a **privileged resolution with no amendments permitted. All members are urged to support the Democratic motion to commit and to oppose final passage of the Republican rules for the House in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress.**

### BILL SUMMARY AND KEY ISSUES

- ◆ **Republican rules package for the House in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress (H. Res. 5):**  
The Republican rules package for the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress includes changes that further undermine the rights of the Minority to fully represent the interests of their constituents. Some of the key changes to previous House rules the Republicans are proposing include:
  - ◆ Continuation of Budget Resolution (H. Con. Res. 353) from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress. The new rules would deem last year's Republican budget to be in effect thereby keeping in place their flawed economic plan.
  - ◆ Reinstatement of the Gephardt rule. The reinstatement of the Gephardt rule would allow Republicans to automatically increase the debt limit when the House passes a budget resolution which requires such an increase. This would make it possible for the Majority to continue increasing the national debt without an explicit action by the House.
  - ◆ Requirement of dynamic scoring in Ways and Means reports. This would allow Republicans to hide the cost of their tax bills by alleging that increased economic growth will offset the revenue cost.
  - ◆ Postponing Committee Votes at the Discretion of the Chair. Committee and Subcommittee Chairs will be allowed to postpone votes on approving a measure or on adopting an amendment, thereby making it more difficult for Democrats to prevail on committee and subcommittee votes.
  - ◆ Motion to instruct during Conference. Undermines an effective tool traditionally used by Democrats during conference by adding a "10 legislative day requirement" to the current requirement of 20 calendar days before conferees could be further instructed.
  - ◆ Homeland Security Select Committee. The rules package would also establish a new Select Committee on Homeland Security.

**Democrats will propose an alternative rules package** which would eliminate these proposed Republican changes. It would also adjust committee ratios to reflect the make-up of the House, require that conference reports are available to Members at least twenty-four hours prior to consideration, and seek to ensure that Democrats are more able to fully participate in the legislative process.

#### Daily Quote:

"This is so flagrant. It's not aimed at the little investor. It's aimed at the big investor and shrouded by a fog of phoniness. This isn't even trickle-down economics. It's mist-down economics."

*Commentator Kevin Phillips on Bush economic plan in today's New York Times*

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